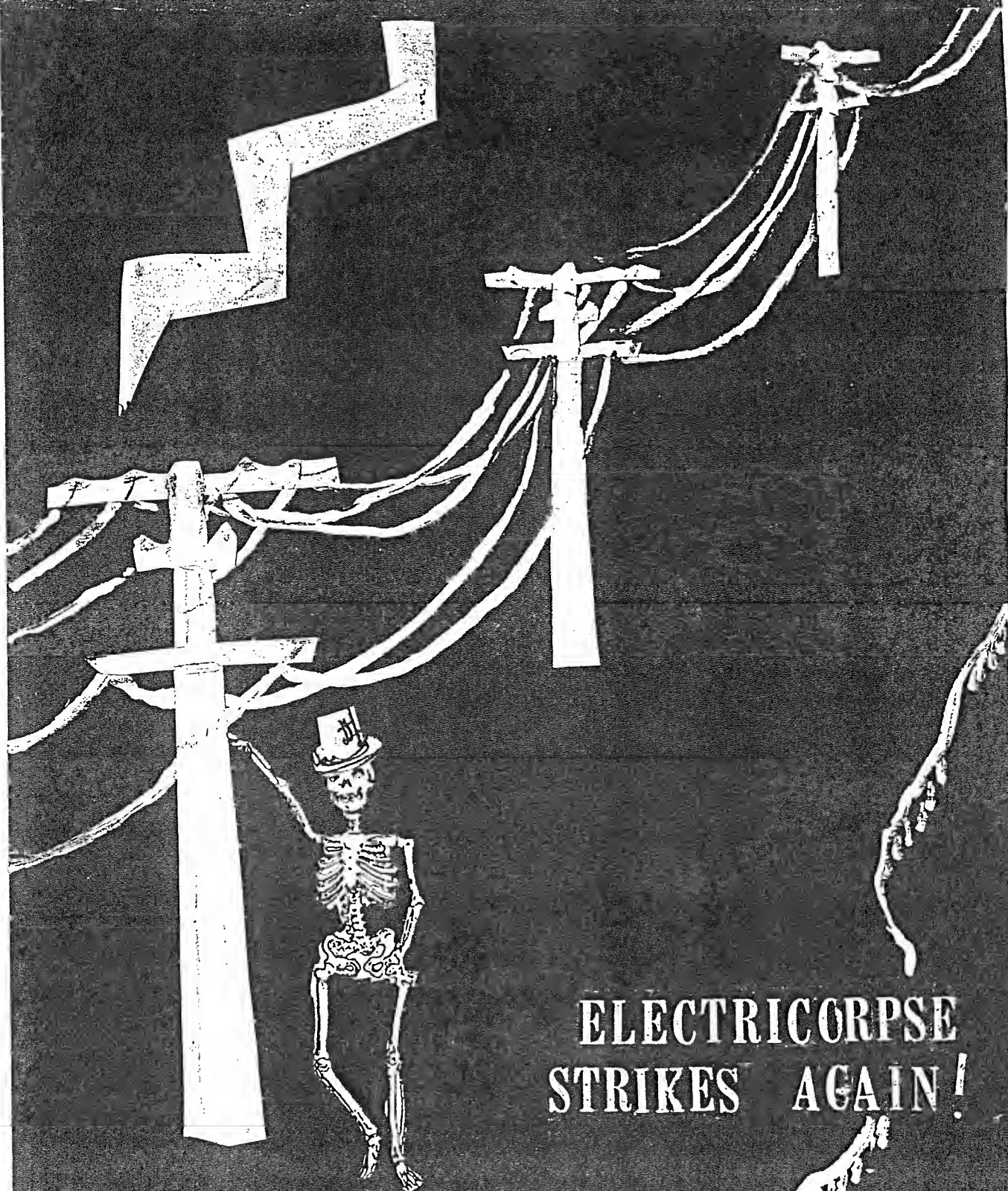


# Aotearoa Youth Network



**ELECTRICORPSE  
STRIKES AGAIN!**

**Number 10 MARCH 1994**

# WHAT IS AOTEAROA YOUTH NETWORK?

The Aotearoa Youth Network is an organisation dedicated to building links between youth who are active in "progressive" politics. It is open to all and seeks to provide a place for discussion, learning and action across organisations, individuals and causes.

AYN was established at the 1993 Peace, Power and Politics Conference, where over 600 people (including over 150 young people) gathered. The main activity of AYN so far has been the production of a monthly newsletter, which presently goes to over 120 people, and reaches a far wider audience. AYN has established a positive presence in the progressive peoples' movement, and hopes to go beyond "networking" to assist in the formation of new organisations and groups.

We want to put anything in this magazine that you can write - news, articles, poetry, letters, anything. The more you write in, the more this magazine acts as a networking tool. We attempt to print anything you send without cutting but please note:

- We will not print anything that is overtly racist, sexist, homophobic or offensive to any marginalised group. If you want to debate issues that may offend people, try and be very clear about what you are trying to do, and why.

Write to AYN at:  
c/ - The Web Resource Centre  
111 Moray Place  
Dunedin.

## AN ELECTRICORPSE AT STRATFORD?

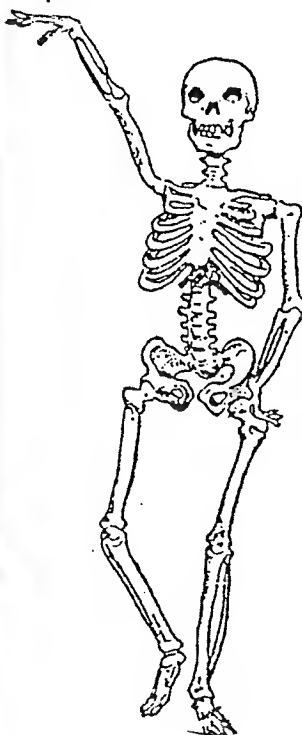
Electricorpe have returned to the age of the dinosaur with a 90's version of 'THINK BIG'. The proposed 400 MW gas power station at Stratford will:

1. EMIT 1.5 MILLION TONNES of carbon dioxide a year into the atmosphere.
2. COST AN ESTIMATED 400 MILLION dollars to build.

New Zealand's CO2 emissions stand to increase by almost 6% if Stratford goes ahead. This is at a time when nations all over the world are trying to stem global warming by reducing greenhouse gas production. A far cry from "clean green" New Zealand - we risk becoming an environmental embarrassment.

Electricorp successfully pressed for permission to burn coal at Huntly which would increase Huntly's emissions by 73%.

Power stations like these will cost the earth, in dollars and



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## POWER MADNESS: THE REAL CRISIS

New Power Stations:

Eight 'Clyde-sized' dams have to be built before year 1999 if electricity demands keep growing at current levels, the Electricity Supply Association says. Even they describe this as "daunting".

## RISING COSTS

The energy industry estimates a cost of up to \$25 billion by 2010 for new power stations; Electricorpe Head, Dave Frow, warned in mid 1993 that we should expect 10-20% electricity price hikes to pay for more power stations.

## ECONOMIC INSANITY TOO

Using gas to make electricity wastes half the resource at a time when New Zealand has the worst record in the industrialised world for using more and more energy to produce economic wealth. We are using and paying for more energy, with less and less to show for it.

A key reason is that the electricity industry puts commercial objectives before anything else. And it makes more money selling more power. For example, during the 1992 power crisis, Electricorp Head, Dave Frow, complained about energy savings because this effected the company's profits.

## POSITIVE SOLUTIONS

Overseas studies show that in every case more jobs are created from energy efficiency than from building new power stations. Wind energy creates five times the number of jobs and solar energy twice the number of jobs compared to the jobs created generating the same amount of energy from coal.

The energy industry itself says energy efficiency is the cheapest option.

No new power stations are needed for at least a decade if we cut energy demands and use waste heat better (co-generation). This will allow plenty of time to commercially develop clean cost-efficient energy sources such as WIND and SOLAR power.

Energy efficiency and clean renewable energy is the only logical solution to a healthy environment and economic future.

These clean environmental options also create more jobs. Overseas studies have found that energy efficiency creates more jobs per million invested than new power stations in every case.

It's a whole new industry, business opportunity and option for training young New Zealanders.

**SUBMISSIONS FROM THE COMMUNITY TO THE TARANAKI REGIONAL COUNCIL ON STRATFORD ARE THE REASON THE MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT HAS USED HIS POWER TO HOLD A NATIONAL INQUIRY INTO THE POWER STATION'S POTENTIAL CO2 EMISSIONS!!!!**

Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held on the 16th September,

ber, 1993, the New Zealand government agreed to limit emissions of CO2 and other greenhouse gases, and to protect and enhance greenhouse gas sinks and reservoirs. This is another of the reasons why Simon Upton (the Minister for the Environment) has used the Resource Management Act to make the Stratford issue one of national inquiry.

## WHERE TO FROM HERE?

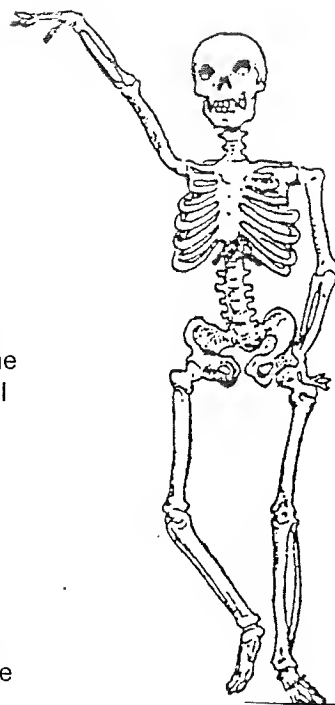
- support the call for a halt to all new power stations until the energy sector is reviewed to meet CO2, environmental and energy efficiency goals. Visit your new local MP and ask them whether they intend to act on your behalf - MPs should be more accountable now.

- Write to your local papers, ring your local talkback radio, talk to your friends - help to get the debate going.

- save energy in the home - when you pay your next bill ask your power company to help you cut electricity use by 20% - home and business.

## THE POWER, ENERGY AND ACTION WEEKEND EASTER APRIL 1ST TO 4TH 1994

Greenpeace, Taranaki Energy Watch and the Student Environment Action Network invite YOU to come to a public meeting at Taranaki, close to



the proposed power station site. Now is the time to ensure that attitudes change throughout the country.

The weekend aims to bring together the growing number of people nationwide: from energy activists to students to members of the community who want a clean energy efficient New Zealand, not a country run by out of date fossil fuel by giants like ECNZ (Electricorp).

**Dates:** Arrive Good Friday and leave Monday afternoon.

**Accommodation:** Te Wera outdoor education and recreation camp - situated 37km east of Stratford on State Highway 43.

**Cost:** \$25 covers 3 nights accommodation. BYO food, drink and consumerables.

**For Information on Attending:** Contact -

Linda Roderique  
Power and Energy Weekend  
PO Box 11964  
Wellington.

OR -

Kirsty Hamilton  
Greenpeace  
(09) 377 6128.

# EDUCATION ISSUES AND POLICE VIOLENCE

Tuesday September 28th is a date that will be remembered by many students who attended Otago University in 1993. It was the day around 1000 students rallied on the Union lawn and then marched over to the registry to protest against a proposed 35-45% increase in student fees.

It was also the day that Dunedin Police, many of whom were clad in full riot gear, attempted to move peaceful protesters through the use of brute force.

People around New Zealand settled down in front of the six-o'clock news that night and saw brutal images of Police bashing students who were lying on the ground with their arms over their heads to protect themselves. And the next day, the front pages of many major newspapers around the country displayed graphic images of the "riot".

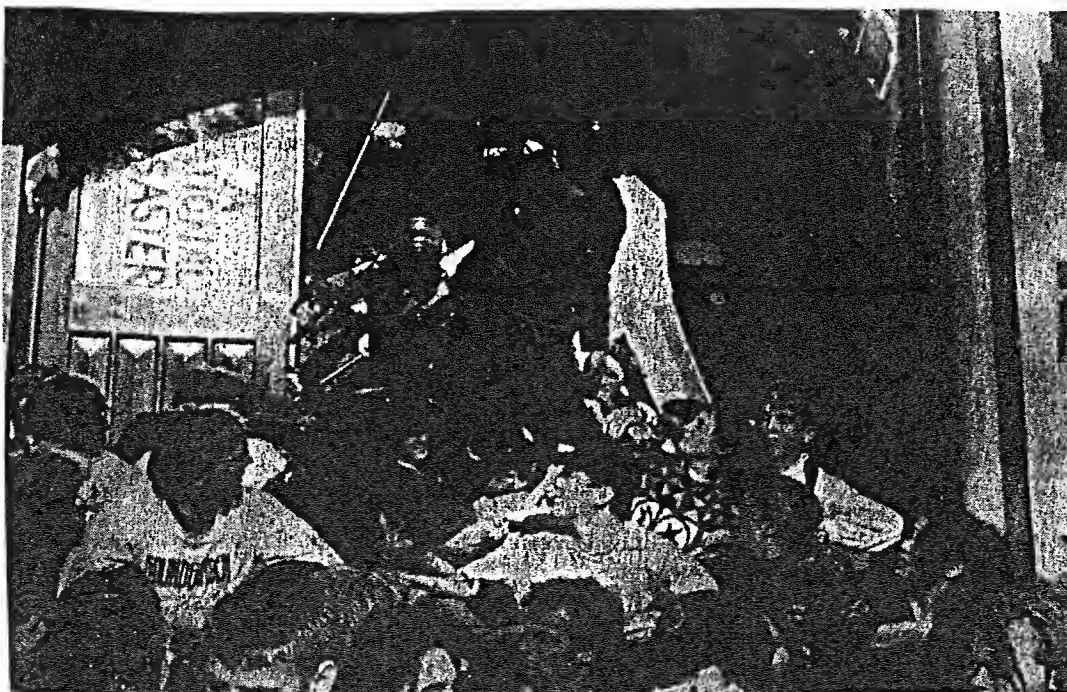
For most of us, September 28th is a bitter memory. But for Steve Boulton, Daniel Jolly and Felix Gieringer, it is not over yet. They are to stand trial on March 30th and 31st, charged with offenses arising from the Fees

protest.

We believe that these charges are of a political nature - they are being used by the Police to legitimise and justify their use of

still the issue now.

Dunedin Education Action Group.



excessive force on September 28th, spurred on no doubt by the negative publicity the Police received from the media. The arrests were made up to two weeks after the protest, during which time they had all filed official complaints against the Police. It would seem that the information from these complaints, together with the Police video (subsequently "misplaced"), formed the basis of these arrests.

It is important that we don't forget why we were there. We did not go there to take on the Police, we did not go there to get beaten up, we did not go there to get arrested. We went to a public meeting that we had every right to attend in an effort to stop the fee increases. That was the issue then and that is

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Show your support by sending letters to the Education Action Group, especially those individuals who are standing trial.
- perform actions in solidarity with us in your own areas focusing on education issues, and informing people in your communities of the political nature of the trials on the 30th and 31st of March.
- Keep the pressure on the National government, we still want Free Education and we want it now!

# CAMPAIGN TO SAVE UNIVERSAL MEMBERSHIP

## FROM THE PEOPLE WHO BROUGHT YOU

- high tuition fees
- no allowances
- spiralling debt

**we have the threat of voluntary membership of students associations. Why? Because they want to screw us over again!!!**

Michael Laws' Tertiary Students Association Voluntary Membership Bill threatens the very existence of students associations and thus the whole range of services they at present provide to students. Of course the legislation is marketed as doing nothing of the kind; representative associations, we are told, are not under threat at all because if they are in fact meeting student needs, voluntary membership membership will have little effect because students will choose to remain members. The legislation, the proponents argue, is thus to be understood as targeting 'unrepresentative' organisations which must be forced through the potential loss of membership to deliver the sorts of services students desire.

Thus the bill seeks to introduce 'freedom of association' by granting individuals the right to dissociate from any students association - voluntary membership. This is also appealed to as a basic right which will enhance the freedom of students; the argument being that no one should be forced to join any group not of their choosing. The argument has some appeal, but this is easily shown to be superficial once we are aware of the actual consequences of such a move. Far from increasing the

'freedom' and security of individual students, the proposals would actually serve to undermine the equitable provision of a whole range of services which each individual student benefits from.

It is essential to locate the reforms in the context of National's wider political goals. Even if Laws and National deny it, the bill is an extension of the agenda of the (unfortunately no so new) Right. In reality it is the collective organisation itself which is the target. It is a denial of the legitimacy of democratic processes - of the balancing of majority and minority rights. This is much more than just an argument of some theoretical interest.

Students associations serve as aggregators and articulators of student interests. They represent these interests to both the government and university authorities and should be understood as legitimate interest groups in democratic politics. They often find themselves in serious bun fights with these powers and this in large measure explains National's desire to undermine them.

This should not be allowed to happen!

For a country to maintain its democratic credentials it is essential that interest group activity be fostered because it provides important countervailing power to other groups/organisations who have interests in the same issue areas.

Associations aren't solely in the business of checking power,

they also provide valuable student representation in working to influence the quality of education received. This is achieved via students representative positions on academic and administrative committees and constructive liaison with government (eg; funding for Student Job Search and The Todd task force on funding for tertiary education). Universal membership ensures equitable representation of interests.

Thus students associations are vitally important participants in education politics; they must, therefore, be allowed to maintain their visibility. They have a right to exist.

**It is a bore to have to drag this issue into student consciousness but LET'S NOT BE NAIVE HERE. National want to destroy students' associations. It has nothing to do with individual freedom. Don't give them the pleasure of seeing out representative organisations go belly-up; talk with your friends, and join the fight back.**

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Pay a visit to your students association and find out all the services they provide you.

Write to your MP and tell them you want to vote for universal membership

- Nathan M, Grant R, Anita J.

# CAMPAIGN AGAINST MITSUBISHI

In spite of all our hard work to protect the rainforests, the Earth is losing over 16 million hectares (40 million acres) every year. A considerable part of this is caused by huge logging companies, mainly from Japan and other industrialised countries. The largest corporate rainforest destroyer in the world is the mega-corporation Mitsubishi. We must fight like we've never fought before...

Rainforest Action Network (RAN) is launching the biggest campaign ever - and one of the biggest in the history of the environmental movement. RAN is focusing world attention on the devastating results of Mitsubishi's logging and timber trading activities. And for a good reason - Mitsubishi is the largest rainforest destroying company in the world.

- In Malaysia, Mitsubishi is a major player in logging what could well be the oldest rainforest on earth - 180 million years old. Mitsubishi plans to devastate a huge section of it.

- In Papua New Guinea, Mitsubishi has cheated the rainforest people out of millions of dollars in timber royalties.

- In Brazil, Mitsubishi destroys huge areas of forest every year, ripping mahogany out of the heart of the Amazon.

- In Indonesia, Mitsubishi is one of the biggest buyers of plywood made from tropical hardwoods torn down from the rainforest.

- And Mitsubishi is also gobbling up rainforest in Bolivia, Chile and the Philippines. But all this can't appease Mitsubishi's

voracious appetite for timber. Now this corporate giant is closing in on the great northern forests.

- In Siberia, Mitsubishi plans to log an ancient forest the size of the United States. Right now, they are marketing logs dragged from areas near the home of the last 200 wild Siberian tigers.

- In Canada, Mitsubishi has the rights to clear cut nearly 120 000 square kilometers of native Alberta forest. They are building a pulp mill that will pollute one of the world's purest river systems. And in British Colombia, they hack up proud ancient trees to make disposable chop sticks.

As Mitsubishi tightens its stranglehold on the world's forests, the corporation is laying waste to the cultures of indigenous people - the Iban and Kayan in Malaysia, the Yanomani in South America, the Udege in Siberia and the Cree in Canada. Mitsubishi must be stopped. And as crucial as it is to silence the bulldozers and chainsaws, it's even more important to force Mitsubishi to become a world leader in responsible harvesting confined to areas completely outside of natural forests.

RAN is doing everything it can to stop Mitsubishi, but it can't do it itself - Mitsubishi is one of the largest corporations in the world. Mitsubishi's public relations department is fighting back with millions of dollars claiming that its auto and TV divisions have nothing to do with its logging and timber marketing, that they log selectively, and that they reforest after logging.

They are all lies. Mitsubishi's many corporations are inter-

locking, they do business with each other, and Mitsubishi president Minoru Makihara plots strategy with the CEO's from Mitsubishi's core companies at monthly meetings. Mitsubishi's tractors crush and bury ten trees for every "selectively" logged tree they drag from the rainforests, turning the fragile forest topsoil into eroded, barren ground. Mitsubishi's reforestation - a few hectares - is ridiculous compared with the thousands of square kilometers of biologically diverse forest it is logging every year.

What can you do?

Action around the world is needed to turn the head of the world's largest corporation. We are calling people and organizations all over the world to act against Mitsubishi's disastrous business in the rainforests.

- First, please don't buy Mitsubishi. That means cars, VCR's, TV's, Nikon cameras and Kirin beer - and Mitsubishi cars made under the Chrysler name.

- Second, please write to Mitsubishi president Minoru Makihara. Tell him to cut out the PR smokescreen and stop ravaging the rainforest now. His address is:  
C/o Mitsubishi International Corporation  
520 Madison Ave.,  
New York  
NY 10022,  
USA.

- Randy Hayes,  
Executive Director  
Rainforest Action Network  
USA.

# Shop 'til you drop

Are you wanting something new and different?

Or the best bargain that money can buy?

Whether it's for food or new clothes shopping is in. It is not necessary to purchase much at all. The only requirement to this latest form of leisure activity, is a continual browsing motion - up and down the aisles or in and out the shop doors - a continuous country road. Money or at least a plastic card does help. After investing so many hours searching for that irresistible something it seems only appropriate to buy it.

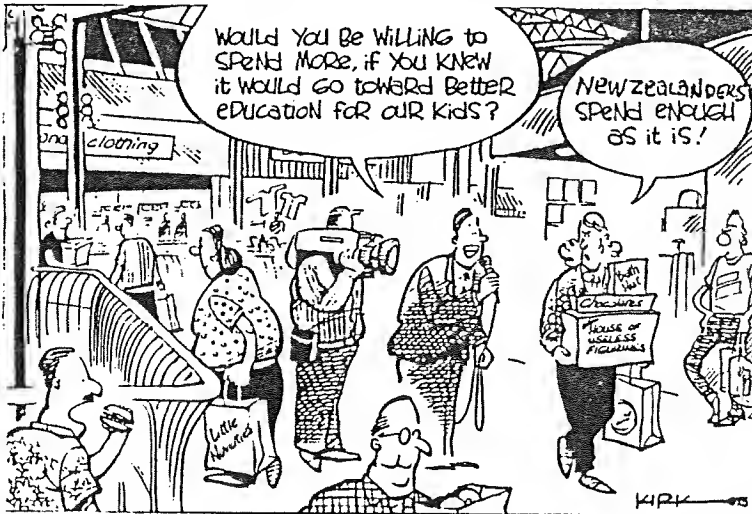
What is truly amazing is that it is now possible to buy most anything - carved masks from Africa, hand-knitted jerseys from Peru, Italian ceramics or French antique. No longer is it necessary to travel to far distant places to bring back unusual gifts. A simple walk around town can provide them all. A keen shopper can find almost anything. It just takes a little patience and tenacity - the skills required for the more traditional hunting and gathering lifestyles of what was thought to be a by-gone era. Instead of tracking down animal protein, the hunt is on for the latest in exotic goods and produce. For those with more resources this occasionally might necessitate an expedition to Australia - just for the shopping!

Alternatively hunting through catalogues available from throughout the world offers a more sedate approach to the sport.

The products of the world may be easily available at home for those with money, but what has now happened is that it is possible to travel the world and find

the same goods. Supermarkets bring together the world's food products under a few labels. Just five companies produce 77% of the world's cereals, three companies produce 85% of the tea and three companies 80% of the bananas. Go into a Safeway supermarket in Seattle, Sainsbury's in London, Countdown in Christchurch, Utility Stores in Islamabad or Cold Storage in Singapore, and you can find Kelloggs cornflakes or Dole canned pineapple. Shopping for food involves the selection from a vast array of goods produced from around the globe but packaged with the same plastic wrap or tin cans.

Essential to that shopping expedition is the highly complex trading system which enables any shopper a variety of choices. Each purchase continues a whole string of exchanges to which most of us never give a second thought. Not only do large transnational companies provide many of the choices of goods available to put in our shopping baskets, but governments have also taken a



significant role. The added Goods and Services Tax (GST) of 12.5% is something that we have become somewhat accustomed to, but less obvious are the tariffs and import duties applied to imported goods.

## Tariffs

Tariffs are set by governments primarily to

protect the local industry and as a source of government revenue. They are applied to imported goods and may vary due to the country of origin. For example in the case of clothing the application of tariffs is a highly technical field. As part of the free trade policy, the levels of tariff are gradually moving downwards - which has resulted in much more cheap imported clothing available in the shops, but it has also moved many of our clothing manufacturers off shore to places like Fiji and China. Currently the tariffs on imported clothing is estimated at between 25 and 30% of the actual value of the item. Some countries have most-favoured nation status that means either a much lower or no tariff has been negotiated on some or all of these items. You may have already realised that Closer Economic Relations (CER) with Australia has meant that there are a lot more Australian goods on the supermarket shelves of Aotearoa.

But this is only the beginning. Our government has been fiercely lobbying for much wider trade

principles, so that more countries can have similar access to our markets. It would seem from the rhetoric of politicians such as Philip Burdon (Minister of Trade) or for that matter Mike Moore, that increased trade will increase New Zealand's standard of living, better levels of employment, and most importantly growth in the economy. Somehow it would seem that these systemic changes will trickle down to the rest of us and that means more shopping!! But we need to think again.

**The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)** is where some of the basic rules have been made that effect what we can buy when we embark on a shopping expedition. Set up after the second world war along with the International Monetary (IMF) and the World Bank, the member nations (currently 110) agreed on processes to regulate trade relations supposedly to prevent economic chaos and in the belief that regulated trade would benefit everyone. Together these countries account for 90% of the world's trade. Although Two Thirds World nations are the majority of its members, they have little say in the process of setting the rules. The power is held by the Group of Seven (G-7) (richer) nations, the European Community, the USA and Japan. In theory member nations are to treat each other as 'most favoured nations', offering easy access to each others goods and services and there are special concessions to the "developing" world. Of course the economically poorest countries aren't even allowed to join. In theory if those "developing" countries set the rules it might be fairer, but as it stands the benefits continue to accrue to those nations who already have the most - the good old trickle up theory!

### The Uruguay Round

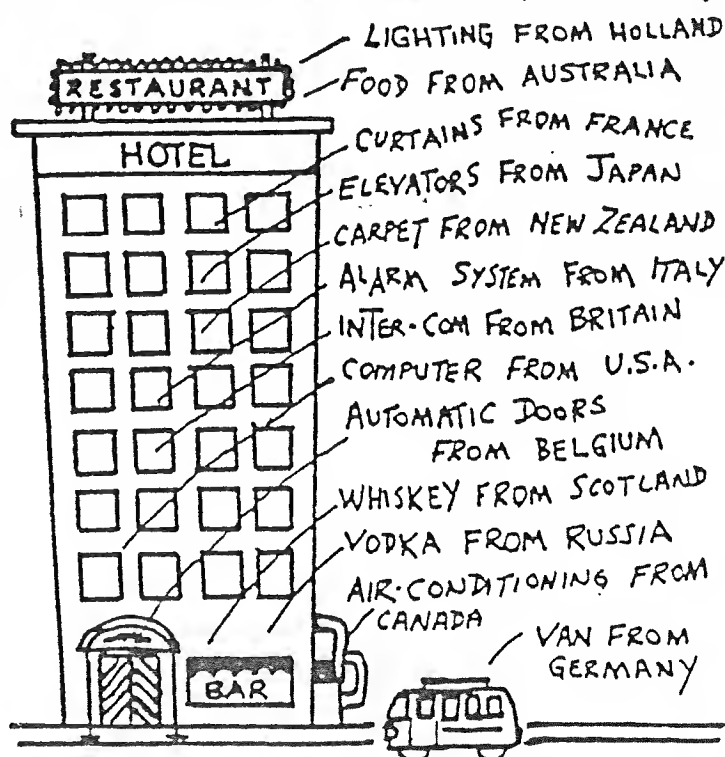
Since 1986 negotiations have been continuing to expand the existing GATT agreements, commonly called the Uruguay Round. If the Round as proposed in the Dunkel report is accepted, it has huge implications not just for the shopping habits of the world's citizens, but for their ability to survive. On the one hand, markets for the products of member countries will be greatly expanded (theoretically offering more choices to the consumer), but on the other hand only a few very large transnationals will have the means to capitalise on these opportunities. In our own communities this is likely to mean that there are even fewer locally-owned businesses, and internationally it means even less economic opportunity to most of those countries already struggling under huge debts and Structural Adjustment Programmes.

The economic processes/conditions which have enabled the mega-transnationals like General Motors (the biggest) to have sales of US\$125,126 million in 1991 or General Electric with US\$58,414 million or Nestle with US\$33,359 million (Fortune April 1992) to develop are expanded under the Uruguay round. These processes have enabled just a few companies to take over either financially or in market share from much smaller businesses. Here at home Telecom is 49.8% owned by Bell Atlantic and Ameritech (American Information Technologies Corporation). **The ANZ Bank has bought the Post Office.** Even within your small town, there are bound to be once privately owned bookshops or clothing shops taken over by larger firms such as Whitcoulls (who have taken over London Bookshops and Philip King). It may be the same book that you purchase but the money you pay will go in different directions than it once would have. It can be guaranteed that most of it does not stay within your local community.

### The Effects of Transnationals

Over the last decades we have begun to identify the long term effects of transnationals - huge environmental degradation, bad labour practises, the movement of jobs and plant into the Two Thirds World, heavily exploitative Free Trade or Export Processing Zones in such places as Mexico, Sri Lanka and the Philippines, the loss of national sovereignty and the dumping of surplus goods. Yet GATT in many ways is designed for those companies. The unifying purpose of the Uruguay

### DOES TOURISM BRING FOREIGN EXCHANGE?



Round is to increase the mobility of all resources which only benefits the transnational companies. Its overall effect is to decrease the level of regulation in world trade and lower the minimal protections in countries that protect workers' conditions and environmental protections such as the ban on the exporting of native wood chips in Aotearoa.

**Transnationals** continually need new products or services to sell or new markets to survive. The men (because that is who they mostly are) are concerned about more "efficient" trade laws. They want to simplify the rules by which goods and services move around the globe. At the same time they will be shopping the world for new products and processes to sell. Much of the cutting edge of research is in the area of biotechnology. Scientists have already reported the successful cloning of human cells, but the search is one to develop new cures that are potentially marketable. In the past new cures have been found by studying the healing traditions of indigenous peoples or from plants that they have cared for over the centuries.

One major component of the Uruguay Round that has particular significance for indigenous peoples is that of the Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). It is a continuation of colonisation processes. The prosperity of countries like Britain and France has been built on what they have been able to extract from indigenous peoples and their lands. Now the knowledge and traditions of indigenous peoples are further threatened by those who might patent these things and thus have control of their reproduction. (See *Fish and Trips* and *Seeds of Life* for more information on TRIPS).

### The Mega Supermarket

Perhaps this new world order can best be pictured as a mega supermarket - where businesses (instead of individuals) shop around the world for the most favourable business conditions or less euphemistically the means to make the most profit. Already large countries like the USA no longer produce baseballs. The companies that make them have found it much more profitable to manufacture them in places like Haiti where the people are so poor that they are prepared to work for any wage. The signing of the North America

**Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)** between the USA, Canada and Mexico paves the way for a trickle-down effect. A Wall Street journal survey of 455 top executives found that 55% of the biggest employers said they were planning to shift some production to Mexico if NAFTA passed. The US government approved this even though polls suggested that two-thirds of the citizens were opposed to it (that's democracy). Profits will trickle down to Mexico but only to those in power. There will be little left for the workers in the maquiladoras who earn US64-84 cents an hour and major health and pollution problems. What we are more likely to see are more of these **Free Trade Zones** as nations try desperately to repay foreign debt and



remain competitive. TNCs will be able to move at will to capitalise on those countries who are desperate to capture their business and are prepared to offer any concessions to get them to relocate.

**GATT** offers more of the same - more monopolies, trickle up, exploitation and shops. The greater availability of goods and services will only be available to those who can afford them - whether they live in Calcutta or New York. Economies may grow statistically but conditions for the world's poorest will only get worse. Instead of revising the rules of trade to ensure a decent lifestyle for the world's peoples and protection against exploitation, in other words fair trade, **GATT** offers increased globalisation and a loss of sovereignty. Peoples all over the world have an altogether different understanding of the common good where people are valued more than shopping.

*Produced by the GATT Watchdog Group,  
Box 1905, Christchurch*

# Groups Working on Free Trade Issues

GATT Watchdog

P O Box 1905, Otautahi/Christchurch  
Ph: (03) 3662803 Fax: (03) 3652919

Corso

P O Box 1905, Otautahi/Christchurch  
Ph: (03) 3662803 Fax: (03) 3652919

Christian World Service

P O Box 22652, Otautahi/Christchurch  
Ph: (03) 3669274 Fax: (03) 3652919

Catholic Commission for Justice  
and Development

P O Box 2450, Otautahi/Christchurch  
Ph: (03) 3794189 Fax: (03) 3652919

Action for Fair Trade

P O Box 33176, Otautahi/Christchurch  
Ph: (03) 3322974

CAFCA

(Campaign Against Foreign Control in Aotearoa)

P O Box 2258, Otautahi/Christchurch

Trade Aid

P O Box 18620, Otautahi/Christchurch  
Ph: (03) 3887016 Fax: (03) 3887015

## Resources used in preparing this pamphlet:

Fish & Trips	GATT Watchdog
Fixing the Rules	K Watkins, Catholic Inst for International Relations, UK 1982
GATTASTROPHE	Public Interest Research Group, New Delhi, 1993
The Great Gattsby	GATT Watchdog
NAFTA - We don't hafta	Jim Hightower
How About a Fair Trade Agreement	David Morris in the Utne Reader July/Aug 1993
NZ Trade Policy	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, September 1993
Overview	No 49, Corso, November 1993
Seeds of Life	GATT Watchdog
The Trade Collection	Christian Aid, UK 1993
Trading Freedom	J Cavanagh, J Gershman, K Baxter, G Helmke, ed: Institute for Food & Development Policy, San Francisco, 1992

## GATT Watchdog

PO Box 1905, Otautahi/Christchurch

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Address.....

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Please continue to send me information on GATT and Trade-Related Issues

# "Fuck You, I won't do what you tell me!"

- Killing in the name of, by Rage against the Machine.

Otago University Students were confronted by posters advertising an article on "Student Power! The Revival of Campus Radicalism?" when they returned to study this year. After their experience in the Education Campaign in 1993, no doubt many went out and bought the magazine, New Zealand Monthly Review, which contained the article.

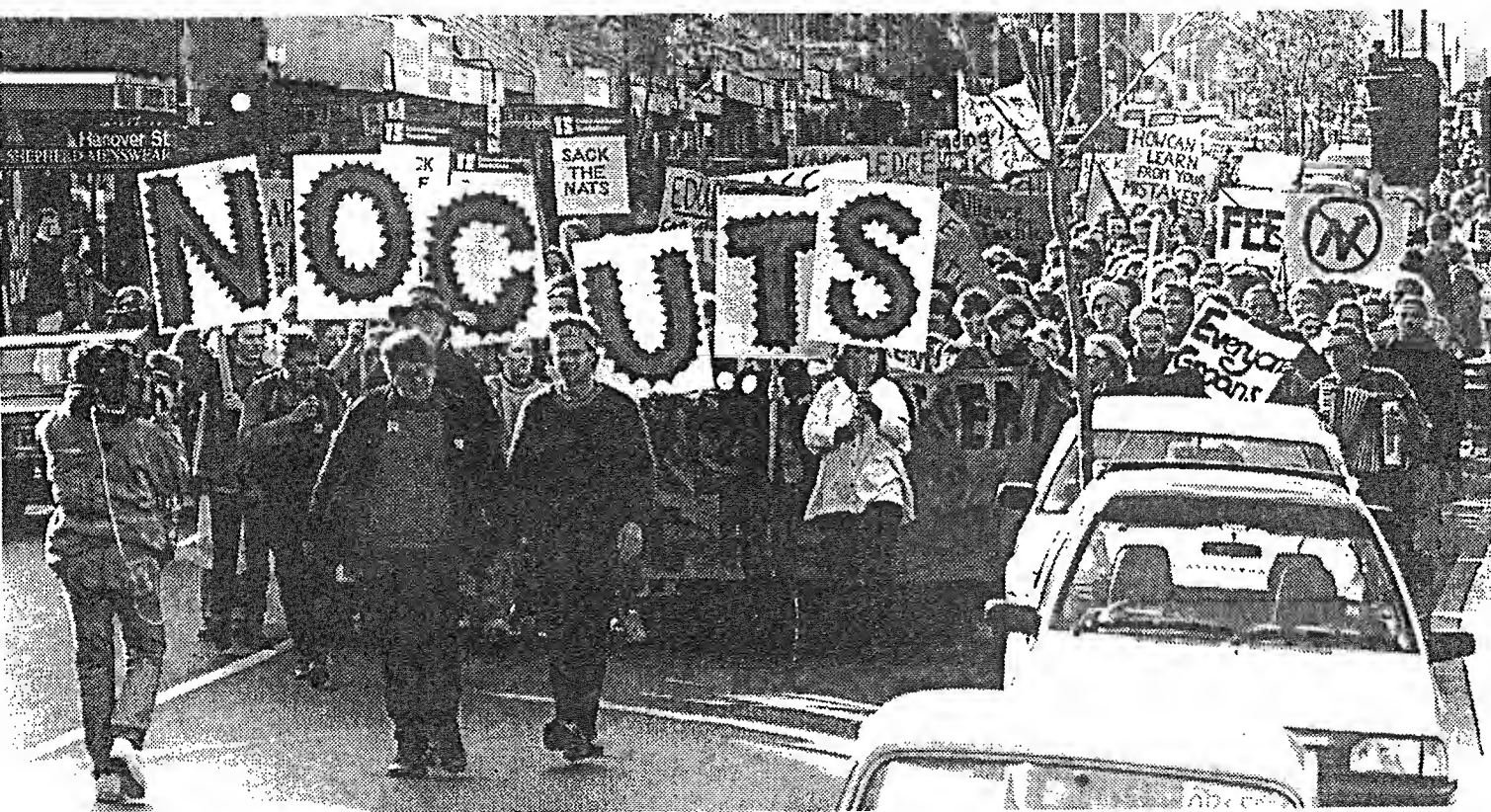
Chris Trotter, who produces NZMR, and wrote the article, is an ex- Student activist, Unionist and New Labour Party candidate for Dunedin North. Now he's a

journalist who specialises in reporting what's happening in "the left", and appears on the Ralston Group, and writes for Metro, besides putting out NZMR and a local give away, Free Copy. Students have provided a fair amount of copy for Chris over the past year. We first made an appearance in a Free Copy (when Chris supported the Right - Wing Million Dollar Dream advocated giving up mobilizations against Education Cuts), and then a second Free Copy (when Chris decided Mobilization is the way to go after watching us get the shit kicked out of us at the Registry), and now NZMR. Chris takes a

fair bit of interest in what happens at Otago, and has been 'around' for a few years now. One would expect him to have a fair idea of what is going on.

Which makes it surprising that his latest article is so far off the mark.

The article examines the resurgence of Student Activism, concentrating on the September 28 Registry protest. He looks at the history of NZUSA, the '81 tour, the bitter internal conflicts of the left in the early 80's, and the isolation of the radicals from 'ordinary' students. At least he attempts to tell this history, and



there are points to learn from. But his conclusions - essentially that there is no resurgence of Student Radicalism - are wrong.

His analysis, for a start, is anti-historical. His focus on the 'main media event', the Police Riot, means that he ignores the 6 or 7 other protests that the Otago EAG had in 1993, the rest of the countries activities (marches of 3000 in Massey, 1000 in Auckland several times; 4000 in Wellington, the Canterbury occupation, etc., etc.). He also ignores the fact that at the end of 1992, the Education campaign was dead. We may have only got a quarter of the Student population involved, but the year before we were lucky to get a quarter of that! We had to face 6 years of right wing legacy in NZUSA, bad strategy, a lack of resources, and a lack of people.

The new Student Movement is also broader based. Students provided key elements in logging blockades, the Peace, Power and Politics Conference, other camps and conferences, and more. Students went on picket lines, have become involved in the Peace Movement, have set up groups all over the place and are moving towards forming national organizations - notably AYN and the Student Environment Action Movement. Those just starting out are more radical in their beliefs - reform is not considered an option by many, and many see the need to link issues, rather than just concentrating on one thing.

There is, despite what Chris Trotter thinks, a new mood. We do need, as he suggests, a new vision of liberation. The old ideological models have been smashed, but this shouldn't stop us from being idealistic about what sort of world we want, and realistic about how we're going to get it (i.e., by not doing what they want us to!). Of course we

will make mistakes, and we will have hard times. But the Student Movement is reviving, as

are many other movements. Let's get out there and prove Chris Trotter wrong!

## **The Hidden Creation and Reinforcement of Racist Attitudes by White Controlled Media**

The Hidden creation and reinforcement of Racist attitudes by white controlled media.

Tonight I watched most of 'A Far Off Place', a film advertised as 'a splendid African epic based on the stories of Laurens Van Der Post, and breathtakingly filmed in the Kalahari Desert'.

I'm not familiar with the author, but it was in a so-called film festival, which suggested quality. Having recently been stunned by shots of the Australian Outback in 'Over the Hill', I was naively hoping for something nearly as spectacular.

The film starts with very beautiful opening shots, showing groups of various animals, including lots of elephants, around a water-hole. This idyllic scene is rudely interrupted by a landrover full of blacks, who promptly start mowing down the elephants with automatic weapons. While these poachers are subsequently using chainsaws to remove the ivory, another landrover arrives and out steps a white game warden, who fearlessly puts a stop to the harvest, and in the process kills a couple of blacks.

Even though the ringleader of the poachers subsequently turns out to be an evil white man, the image of that first scene rang some serious alarm bells for me.

The hidden message is a global one. Indigenous people (usually coloured) are destroying the planet's ecosystems, and it's the job of Colonists (usually white) to use all available methods to prevent them before it's too late.

Clearly most wardens in Africa today would be black, and it's possible some poachers would be white. Why reinforce an inaccurate and dangerous stereotype just to be consistent with an obviously out of date book (if that is the excuse).

A one-off scene like this gives no room for analysis of the prior destruction of the ecological, cultural and economic systems by the very same colonists who are now portrayed as saviours. It is the destruction of these systems which has undoubtedly forced the blacks into poaching to survive. All the technology that makes such destruction possible and most of the infrastructure that facilitates it has been very profitably developed and marketed and is largely controlled by whites.

later in the film, a very attractive white teenage girl, apparently in response to a deep spiritual message, climbs out of her window in the middle of the night. She runs quite a distance through the jungle in the dark and comes across an equally attractive black, slightly older.

They were obviously good friends of long-standing and respect. She spoke a lot of his language and I immediately saw them as possible lovers. Soon they were joined by yet another attractive teenager, this time a white boy who had followed her from the house. She had only met this boy the previous day, but already their relationship was headed for romance.

A large part of the film was then made up of a journey these three were forced to make across the Kalahari, to escape from the evil master poacher.

Sadly, but predictably, the relationship between the white pair steadily developed. Meanwhile the black, without a trace of jealousy, loyally showed them how to stay alive, taught the boy some of his language, uttered a number of very wise sayings and helped the boy to fashion a garment which finally won the heart of the girl.

The hidden messages here are that blacks can be very useful, particularly on their own territory, and that good useful ones don't have any sexual or romantic feelings at all.

There was also a scene where the white boy tries to describe television to the skeptical black while the audience giggles with amusement.

(To be fair the film also includes one very brief scene where a stropic black maid sticks up for herself.)

Although it wasn't advertised as such, this film was produced by the Walt Disney organisations, obviously for full family entertainment. It was undoubtedly conceived, financed, produced and marketed by white men to be shown to white audiences for profit. Certainly all of the leading characters were white. Yet the very essence of the film, the

thing that attracted me, and I'm sure many others is AFRICA. The animals, the indigenous people and the vibrant spirit of the place.

What irony that while exploiting the spirit of Africa in this way the distributors of 'A Far Off Place', possibly unwittingly, are trampling heavily on the people of that continent and indigenous people everywhere.

They've done this by perpetuating false stereotypes and sowing seeds of righteous superiority that feed racism. The fact that their market includes a lot of young people makes it more disturbing and will help make the achievement of equity and justice for all in our country and the world more difficult.

One obvious conclusion is - White men should stick to making films about their own countries and let the indigenous people tell their own stories.

A footnote:

Preceding the opening scene of a black violated tranquillity is a statement that the animals used in the production were well treated, and that scenes where they appear to be harmed were simulated.

How very sensitive and politically correct. It's time the same sensitivity was extended to black people, or aren't they as important as a few animals?

• John Tovey.



## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### 50 YEARS OF NIGHT-MARE

Come late September - early October, 1994, the Bretton Woods Institutions (commonly known in Asia as the World Bank and IMF) will be meeting in Madrid, Spain to mark its 50th year.

Originally created to help war ravaged Europe to rebuild after

World War II, the institution stands as a symbol of today's domination of the third world. Known for its mega-projects that uproot millions of poor people from their land, livelihood and environment; and its structural adjustment programmes (SAP) allowing trans-national corporations (TNCs) freer access to cheap labour and low environmental standards; it continues to have a detrimental impact on

the every day life of third world people.

ASA will be joining other youth groups (ie ASEED network, Youth for Development and Cooperation - YDC) in an international campaign around the 50th anniversary of the Bretton Woods Institutions. It will be one of the major events for 1994, involving the SRCs (sub-regional caucus) and the three ASA centres, culminating in national level campaigns and workshops throughout the Asia-Pacific region. If you are interested in participating in any way, please contact ASA soon.

Asian Students Association  
353 Shanghai Street 4/F  
Kowloon  
Hong Kong

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Labour Notes in association  
with Building Our Future  
Project presents:

## Workplace Reform: The other side of the story!

Workplace reform. TQM. QIP. QCC. QWL. Billed as the cure to all our economic woes, too often workplace reform is nothing more and nothing less than getting workers to do more for less.

To help fight back Labour Notes is hosting a special tour by renowned US journalist, researcher and activist Jane Slaughter. A leading authority on union responses to workplace reform, Jane Slaughter's visit will combine the very best (and worst) of the US experience with practical workshops aimed at helping New Zealand workers' deal with the employers' agenda.

"When the avalanche of concession began, one book was the most important on how to combat them - Jane Slaughters' 'Concessions and how to beat them' ... then when the management moved to further co-opt worker energies in schemes like QWL ... Slaughter teamed up to produce another timely and definitive work."

- Jerry Tucker, United Auto Workers Reviewing "Choosing sides: Union and the Team Concept."

### Dates:

Wellington - Wednesday 30  
March.

Christchurch - Thursday 31  
March

Auckland - Saturday 9 April.

Write to Labour Notes,  
Box 9721  
Wellington for bookings.

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## Socialism '94

Do you want to -

Discuss: Mass Fightbacks  
Global economy  
Workers Art  
Parliament  
Internationalism  
Today's tasks

Plus: Workshops  
Videos  
Socials  
Music

When: April 2-3 Easter Saturday  
and Sunday

Where: Brown Hall  
Rowe Street  
Onehunga  
Auckland

Cost: \$20 for 2 days.

Socialism '94 is hosted by the  
Communist Party of New Zealand,  
Box 8851 Auckland.

## YOUNG WORKERS RESOURCE CENTRE

The Waikato Education Foundation has recognised the importance for young workers to have a broad understanding of employment issues. This has led to the granting of funds to the Young Workers Resource Centre to educate young workers in the Waikato area. Often it has been assumed that young people have the necessary skills and information to act for themselves in an employment situation. However, with the recent review of the Employment Contracts Act it has become obvious that this kind of education is needed.

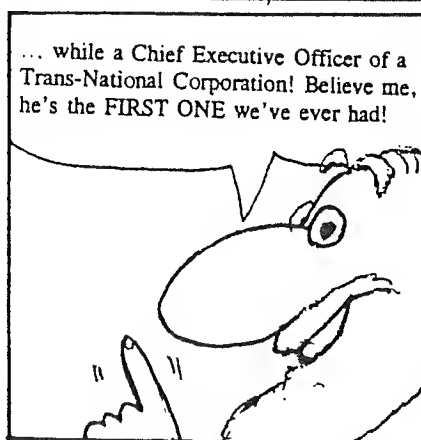
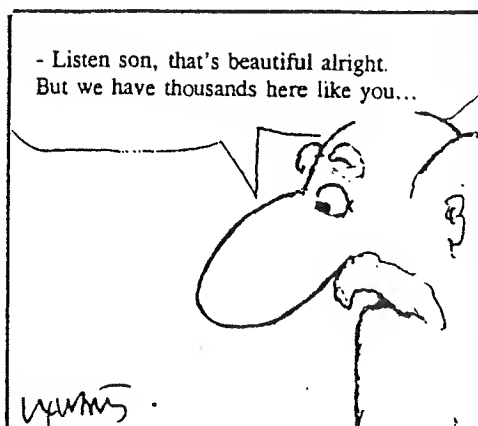
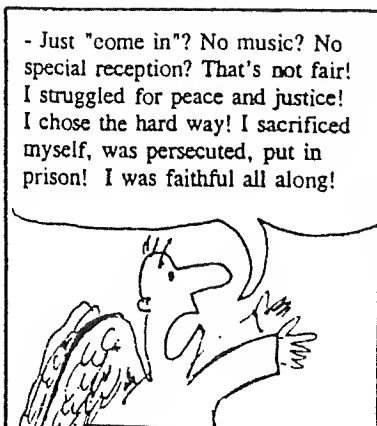
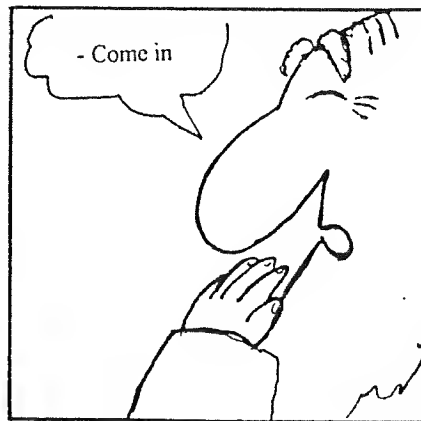
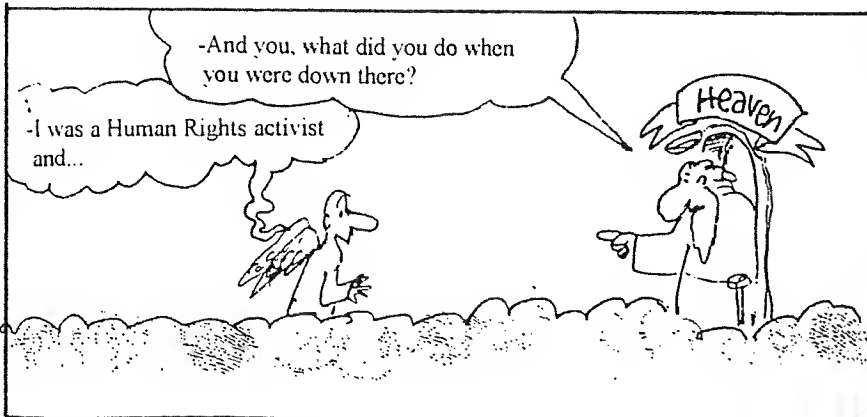
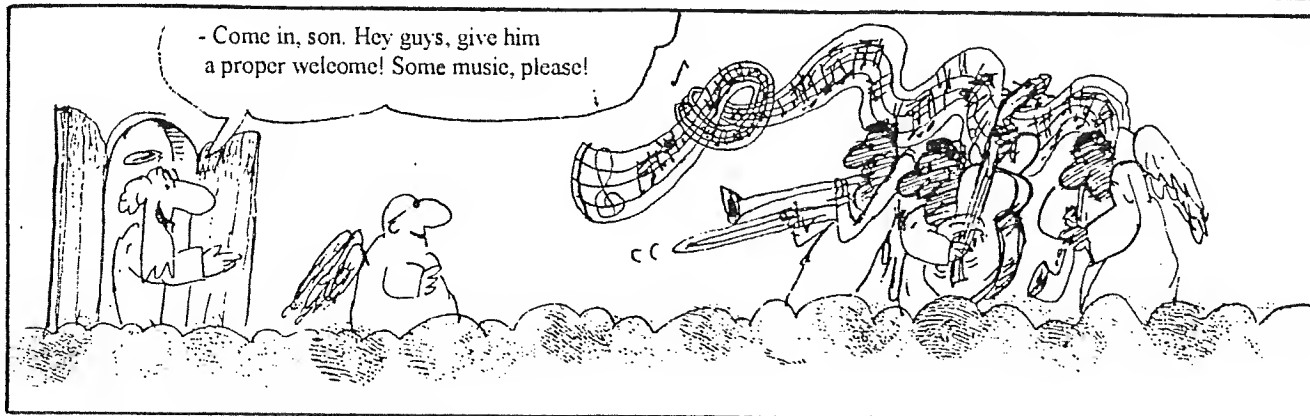
Catherine Hodges is the coordinator of this centre and her job is to provide information and assistance to young people about employment related situations. Catherine uses interactive teaching and discussion techniques, videos and role plays. She draws a lot on her own experiences and problems in the workforce, experiences that many young workers share. She has been visiting the local schools, and in Access courses. It is also planned that she will offer this information to Youth and community groups, and run public seminars and workshops.

Although the Young Workers Resource Centre is only funded to operate in the Waikato area, they are investigating ways to accommodate other areas of demand for this kind of information.

If you want more information, or would be interested in having Catherine visit, drop her a line, or phone her at:

PO Box 9053  
Hamilton.  
Ph: 8390094.

# Claudio



**DEAR AYNers,**

Hello again. I want to say a BIG thank you to all of you who have subscribed in the last month - THANK YOU! Keep your letters and articles coming, the year is already beginning to look like a very active one! Let's tell people about it.

Arohanui,  
Cybele, Joss and Melanie.

P.S. Another big thanks to all of you who contributed with articles to this month's AYN.

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Palmerston North:  
Steve Collett  
3/16 Ada St., 355-3749

**National Contacts**

Wellington:  
Amy Rountree  
C/- PO Box 9069  
358-6728

Nelson:  
Kate McPherson  
PO Box 288

Christchurch:  
Melanie Thomson  
39 Holly Rd, 355-7975

Dunedin:  
Cybele Locke  
17 Blacks Rd, 473-0684

**WHATS COMING UP?**

SEAN Camp in Taranaki,  
April 1st - 4th.

National Anti-Fletcher Challenge  
Day: March 24th, 1994.

Socialism '94: April 2nd - 4th.

Political trials from Otago Sep.  
28th, 1993. Send your aroha and  
support.

The fight for free education  
continues. Watch out!

**Aotearoa Youth Network**  
**111 Moray Place**  
**Dunedin**